



A STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG RURAL AND URBAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study is to examine the Environmental Awareness among secondary school students of Rohtak district of Haryana. Descriptive survey method and simple random sampling technique was used for the present study. Environmental Awareness Ability Measures (EAAM) by Praveen Jha was used on sample of 80 students to measure environmental awareness. Findings of the study are that there exists no significant difference in environmental awareness of rural and urban secondary school students. It was further found that there exists no significant difference in environmental awareness of male and female secondary school students.

KEYWORDS: Environment, Environmental Awareness, Secondary school students.

INTRODUCTION

Environment: According to Singh (1996), Environment may be defined as immediate surroundings which supports life and sustain various human activities. The environment includes all the elements of the surroundings, inanimate, animate, and human and also the social institutions man has built up that come into direct or indirect contact with the individual.

Awareness: Awareness means the process of becoming aware of projects, qualities or relations via senses involves the reception, processing and interpretative or impressions. It means having knowledge or realization of something. Good defined awareness as the state of being aware; consciousness of a situation or object; without direct attention to it or definite knowledge of its nature.

Environmental awareness: Environmental awareness is the interaction of human beings with nature, its behavior, and role of nature and law of nature environmental awareness means knowledge and information regarding environment. The importance of environmental awareness cannot be over emphasized the quality of life. It is not only a question of air, water, or land pollution. It also includes elimination of diseases, hunger, poverty, destruction of forests, erosion of soil. Hence there is an urgent need for proper management of the environment. According to Pardhan (1994) Environment awareness means knowledge and or understanding of facts and concepts relating to the following environmental problems (a) Pollution, (b) Population explosion, Deforestation, (c) Energy crisis, (c) Land use and (d) Ecology description. Environmental awareness may provide power and understanding of some objectives of environmental education that is

- To recognize the interdependence among living and non-living things.
- To take decisions individually and collectively and initiate for conservation of nature and natural resources.
- To make people about effective use of environmental resources.

Methods to Propagate Environmental Awareness

Inculcating among students with the help of education: It is excellent step that at present, all over the state/country we are introducing environmental education as a compulsory subject at all stage including high school, higher secondary and college level which will be beneficial for all young generations.

Role of electronic media & Press: The role of media is very important in spreading awareness among the masses on environmental issues through plantation campaigns, awareness rallies, Dramatization, real eco-disaster stories etc. . Further TV serials are playing effective role in propagation of environmental awareness amongst the people of all age groups.

Publication of environment related resources material in form of brochure, advertising pamphlets or booklets published by ministry of environment & forests, Govt. of India can also help in keeping environment save.

Statement of the Problem:

A Study of Environmental Awareness among Rural and Urban Secondary School Students.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the significance of difference in environmental awareness among

secondary school students with respect to their gender and locale.

2. To study the significance of difference in environmental awareness of male and female secondary school students.
3. To study the significance of difference in environmental awareness of rural and urban secondary school students.

Hypotheses of the Study:

1. There exists no significance difference in environmental awareness of male and female secondary school students.
2. There exists no significance difference in environmental awareness of rural and urban secondary school students.

Significance of the Problem: At present, the entire world is facing numerous of environment problems. These problems are of great concern for scientists all over the world. We better know that over-exploitation of natural resources is responsible for some of environmental problem. Air, water and soil pollution is increasing every day. Vehicular exhausts, smoke releasing tall smokestacks, mining are various problem associated with human activities. Degradation of environment result in ecological balance. The government is taking several steps but is not success everywhere. Participation of people and students is there for, very important in planning and management of environment. Efforts are being made for inculcating environment consciousness among the masses.

Operational Definition of the Term Used:

Environmental Awareness:- Environmental awareness refers to information, conscious and sensitive state of an individual about environment and its allied problems along with measures for protection. Environment awareness means pure knowledge & understanding of environment and applied knowledge for solving various environmental problems.

Sample: In the present study, sampling has been done by using Simple Random Sampling Method. The researcher shortlisted eight schools from Rohtak district (4 schools from rural area and 4 schools from urban area). 80 students were selected randomly from the selected schools, giving equal representation to male and female and also to rural and urban.

Delimitations of the Present Study:

1. The study was restricted to 80 secondary school students only.
2. The study was restricted to 40 urban and 40 rural secondary school students (20 male and 20 female) only.
3. The study was confined to Rohtak district of Haryana only.

Tool Used: Environmental Awareness Ability Measures, (EAAM) by Praveen Jha (1998).

Statistical Technique Used: Mean, Standard Deviation & t-test.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. **Environmental Awareness of Male and Female Secondary School Students:** To investigate the significance of difference in environmental awareness of male and female secondary school students, t-ratio was used and the results are given in the following table

Table 1: Significance of difference in the environmental awareness of male and female secondary school students

	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio
Male secondary school students (N=40)	32.56	2.07	2.004*
Female secondary school students (N=40)	33.45	1.97	

*Significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 1 reveals that the values of mean for male and female secondary school students are 32.56 and 33.45 respectively. The value of t-ratio is 2.004 which significant at 0.05 level of significance. Male and female secondary school students thus differ in their environmental awareness. Hypothesis 1 which states that "There exists no significance difference in environmental awareness of male and female secondary school students" is thus rejected.

- 2. Environmental Awareness of Rural and Urban Secondary School Students:** To investigate the significance of difference in environmental awareness of rural and urban secondary school student's t-ratio was used and the results are given in the following table:

Table 2: Significance of difference in the environmental awareness of male and female secondary school students

	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio
Rural secondary school students (N=40)	32.08	1.58	3.50*
Urban secondary school students(N=40)	33.93	2.19	

*Significant at 0.01 level of significance

Table 2 reveals that the values of mean for rural and urban secondary school students are 32.08 and 33.93 respectively. The value of t-ratio is 3.50 which significant at 0.01 level of significance. Environmental awareness of urban secondary school students is significantly more as compared to their rural counterparts. Hypothesis 2 which states that "There exists no significance difference in environmental awareness of rural and urban secondary school students" is thus rejected.

Educational Implications

- The study may also be helpful in providing directions to the teachers and the parents to provide suitable facilities and congenial environment to promote environmental awareness level of the students.
- The study may also be helpful to encourage non-government institutions, media and other concerned for promoting awareness among the people at all levels.
- Educational programs and curriculum should give attention in developing the individual's environment awareness.
- The study may also be helpful in designing special educational programs that raise the environment awareness for college students.

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